Reviewer’s report

Title: Measuring health inequalities in Albania: a focus on the distribution of general practitioners

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2005

Reviewer: Javier Llorca

Reviewer’s report:

General

This paper studies the distribution of general practitioners in Albania and its relationship with crude mortality using two measures of inequality: Gini index and Robin Hood index. The article is interesting and well written.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. The Robin Hood index seems to have been estimated in different ways (see, for example, Johnston G, Wilkinson D (2001) and Wilkinson D, Symon B (2000)). The authors should clarify how they have estimated it.

2. The method used to adjust for crude mortality is unclear and should be explained with some details.

3. (Related to 2) As defined in page 4, the need adjusted index (NAI) is simply the inverse of the number of deaths by each GP. It's unclear how NAI should be interpreted: (a) a measure of population need?, (b) a measure of inequality in GP competence? Other interpretations would be adequate. The paper would be improved discussing this limitation of NAI.

4. No results from other studies (out of Albania) are shown in the discussion section. This section would be improved including some comparisons with other countries.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.